GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1564
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2016
Modernisation of Powerlooms
Jadhav Shri Sanjay Haribhau;Patil Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any measures to address the distressing crises in the powerloom industry and to curb the increasing number of suicides by the powerloom weavers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to facilitate rapid modernisation of powerlooms;

(c) whether the Union Government has considered any assistance to the State Governments to replace the existing powerlooms with the jet looms to produce value added fabric for good marketing and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has identified the difficulties being faced by the powerloom workers and put in place a proper redressal mechanism in this regard and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): In order to mitigate the problems faced by the powerloom weavers and for the development of decentralised Powerloom Sector, Government is implementing various schemes such as i) Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS) scheme for upgradation of technology and In-situ upgradation scheme for plain powerlooms ii) Group workshed scheme for giving assistance for constructing workshed for powerloom sector iii) Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector Development (ISPSD) extending assistance for marketing support in the form of Buyer-Seller Meet, Yarn Bank, setting up of facility for Common Facility Centre, organising Seminar/ Workshop iv) Group Insurance scheme for Social Security and v) Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) for skill upgrading. However, no suicide of powerloom weavers has been reported.

(c): In order to modernize the powerloom sector, Government of India has launched In-situ Upgradation of Plain powerlooms by upgrading the existing powerlooms with the Rapier kits to produce value added fabric for good marketing. Under the scheme, financial assistance to the extent of 50%, 75% and 90% of the cost of up-gradation to a maximum subsidy of Rs. 40,000, 60,000 and 72,000 per loom for General, SC and ST category applicants respectively.

(d): The problems being faced by the Powerloom weavers in the decentralised powerloom sector include obsolete technology, inadequate production infrastructure like worksheds etc., low credit worthiness, dependence on job work fluctuation in input costs etc.

In order to redress the problems, Government of India is implementing the Schemes as mentioned at (a) & (b) above, for the development of the decentralized powerloom sector and improvement in working conditions welfare of powerloom weavers/workers.

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